

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## California State Parks Join National Parks in Waiving Entrance Fees Over Veterans Day Weekend

SACRAMENTO – California State Parks Director Rusty Areias announced today that Governor Gray Davis has instructed California State Parks to join National Parks and other state and local park systems across the nation in waiving entrance fees over Veterans Day Weekend, November 10, 11 and 12.

Director Areias said, "We're pleased Governor Davis requested that we join with National Parks to offer this opportunity for Americans to find peace and inspiration in our parks. Our state is filled with memorials, historic places and beautiful landscapes that remind us of the strength of the pioneers who came before us. We are reminded of the courage and fortitude of our ancestors and from their lasting spirit we can renew our own inner strength. We invite everyone to gather together with their friends and family at such places to be inspired to move forward with a new spirit of patriotism and honor for our veterans and a new sense of healing for our citizens."

This elimination of fees for the Veteran's Day weekend is in keeping with the Davis Administration order more than a year ago to lower fees at state parks to make them more accessible to Californians of all income levels. "This is a special tribute to our armed forces," said Areias, "at a time when we need to remember that we have thousands of soldiers now working on our behalf to respond to the acts of terrorism committed September 11<sup>th</sup>. Those soldiers, sailors and airmen, and all who came before them, deserve a special salute and this is just one way we can render that salute."

Visitors are encouraged to take this opportunity to discover their nearest State Park or to visit a park they have never seen. No day-use charges for California State Parks will be charged during Veterans Day Weekend with the exception of Hearst Castle, Angel Island, and Año Nuevo State Reserve.

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